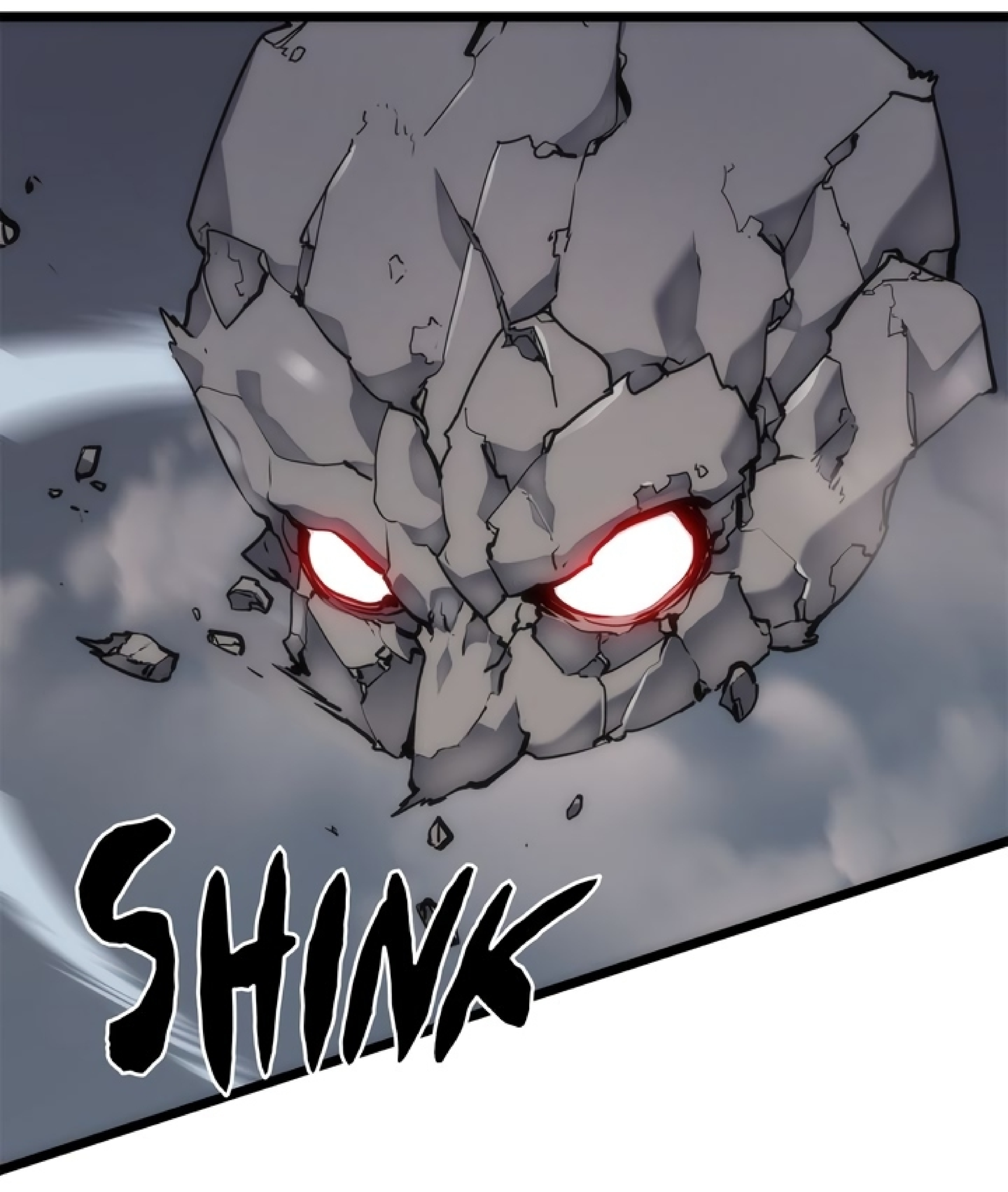
Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

56



BOOM

S, S...SIR.

STAB
CRUSH
SLICE
WH, WHO ARE THESE GUYS?!

OH, YEAH. THIS IS JINHO'S FIRST TIME SEEING THEM.
LET'S JUST SAY I USED ONE OF MY SKILLS.
Y, YOU HAVE A SKILL THAT ALLOWS YOU TO SUMMON SHADOWS?!
IT'S A LONG STORY...
ANYWAY, THEY'RE SUPER RESOURCEFUL. THEY DO ALL THE HUNTING FOR ME...
SLASH
...AND ALL THE BUSY WORK, TOO.
CLINK
CLANK
GRAB

SIR...
COULD I AT LEAST PICK UP THE ESSENCE STONES?
WHY?

I'M UPSET BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE MY JOB HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM ME.

HE'S SO WEIRD.
GRIN

A DAY LATER,

I WAS DONE WITH THE 19 RAIDS I'D PROMISED JINHO.

AN A-RANK DUNGEON
AAAAHHH!

JESUS!
A-RANK HUNTER, JAMES.

OUR STRIKE SQUAD GOT WIPED OUT?!
IMPOSSIBLE!

IS THAT A HUMANOID BEAST?!
WE DIDN'T SEE A SINGLE MAGIC BEAST INSIDE THIS DUNGEON!
I KNEW SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT, BUT...
I HAD NO IDEA WE'D RUN INTO A MONSTER LIKE HIM IN THE BOSS'S LAIR!

THE AMOUNT OF MANA EMANATING FROM HIM EXCEEDS THE MANA OF THIS ENTIRE A-RANK DUNGEON...
THIS IS UNHEARD OF!
JUST HOW STRONG IS THIS GUY?!
HEY.
UWAAAAH! GO AWAY!!
GEEZ, YOU'RE HURTING MY EARS.
SCRATCH

DON'T WORRY, YOUR FRIENDS AREN'T DEAD. I JUST KNOCKED THEM OUT FOR THE TIME BEING.
I WOULDN'T HAVE IF YOUR SQUAD HADN'T ATTACKED ME OUT OF NOWHERE.
I'M TELLING YOU, I'M NOT A MAGIC BEAST. I'M HUMAN.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
...HMM, I GUESS YOU DON'T GET WHAT I'M SAYING.
TREMBLE
HOW SHOULD I EXPLAIN THIS...

I'M KOREAN.
FWIP

I WANT TO GO HOME.

SLICED PORK BELLY RESTAURANT
PORK BELLY
123-1234
HERE'S TO OUR LAST RAID.
I'M SORRY, SIR.
I WANTED TO TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE FANCY TO CELEBRATE...
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
DON'T BE. I'M MORE WORRIED THAT THIS FOOD MIGHT NOT SUIT *YOUR* TASTE BUDS.

NOW THAT OUR RAIDS ARE OVER,
[HARMFUL SUBSTANCES HAVE BEEN DETECTED IN YOUR BODY.]
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?
[YOU HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY DETOXIFIED.]
I'M GOING TO TAKE A SIMPLE WRITTEN EXAM AT THE ASSOCIATION AND GET MY GUILD MASTER'S LICENSE.
AFTER THAT, I'M GOING TO TRY AND STRIKE A DEAL WITH MY FATHER.
CLINK
THE PROMISE I MADE TO JINWOO IS ALSO ON THE LINE.
SURE, IT'D BE GREAT TO OWN A BUILDING

WON, BUT...
...THAT WOULD JUST BE A BONUS.
MY REAL GOAL WAS TO LEVEL UP.
I'VE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED MY GOAL, SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO CONTINUE THIS RELATIONSHIP.
STATUS
NAME: SUNG JINWOO Lv. 61
JOB: THE MONARCH OF SHADOWS
TITLE: CONQUEROR OF ADVERSITY (+1)
HP : 13,001
MP : 1,677
FATIGUE: 0
STRENGTH: 142
HEALTH: 101
AGILITY: 121
INTELLIGENCE: 89
SENSE: 103
AP: 0
PHYSICAL DAMAGE REDUCTION: 46%

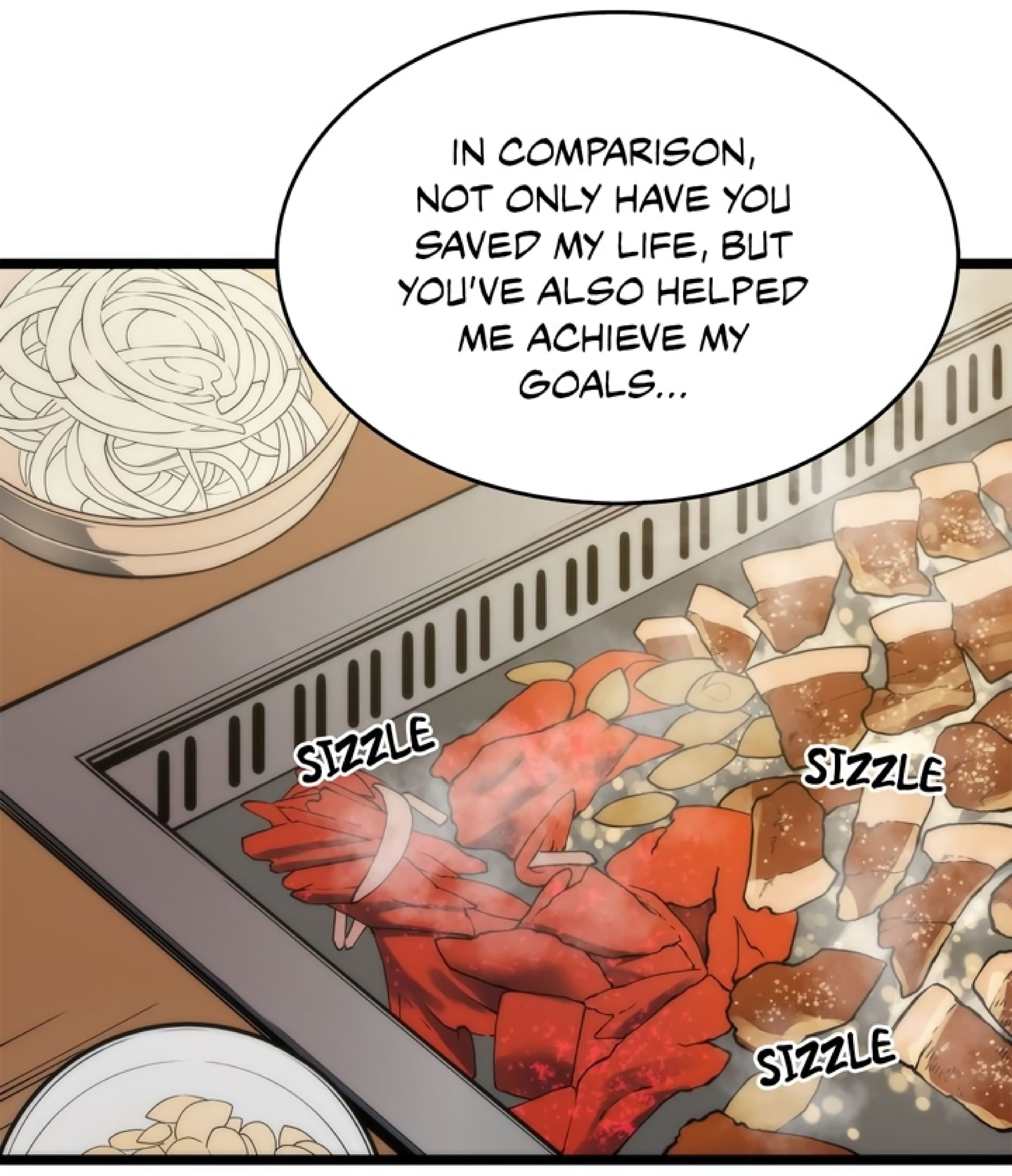
BUT...
CHEW
CHEW
WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS, SIR?
ITEM
[ITEM: CASTLE DOOR KEY]
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: A
TYPE: KEY
A KEY THAT CAN OPEN THE DOORS TO THE DEMON'S CASTLE. OBTAINED BY KILLING THE GATEKEEPER.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTACT ME FOR A WHILE.
CLENCH
I HAVE SOMEWHERE TO BE.

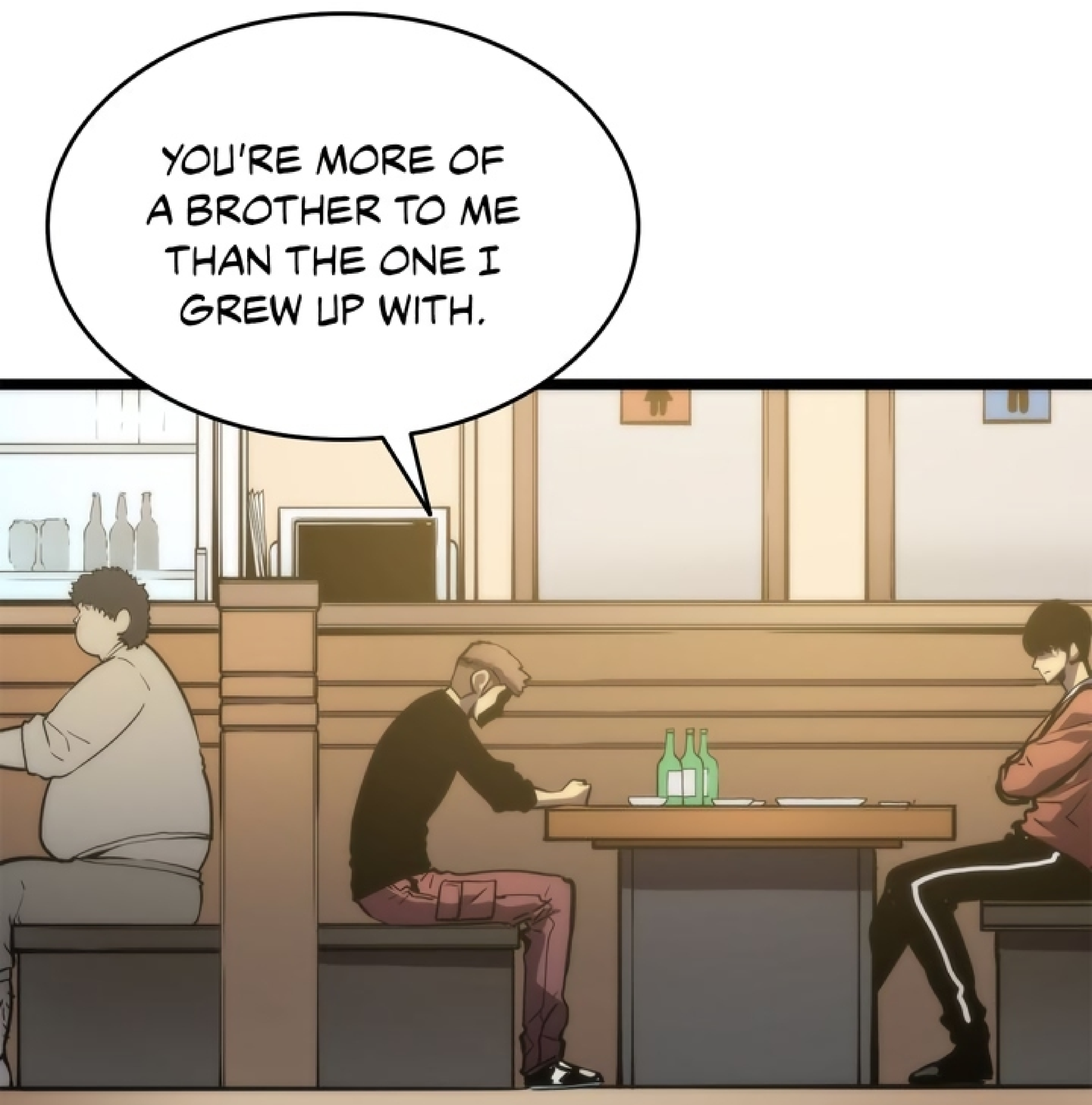
SIR, PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF I'M A NUISANCE TO YOU.
I WON'T BOTHER YOU ANYMORE.
GULP
I HOPE HE DIDN'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY AGAIN.
THIS GUY...
JINHO.
YES, SIR?

WHAT IS YOUR HONEST OPINION OF ME?
Breaking News
[Red Gate Incident]

...MY OLDER BROTHER AND I ARE MORE THAN 10 YEARS APART.
HE DOESN'T LIKE ME VERY MUCH, SO WE NEVER SPENT MUCH TIME TOGETHER GROWING UP.

...


IN COMPARISON, NOT ONLY HAVE YOU SAVED MY LIFE, BUT YOU'VE ALSO HELPED ME ACHIEVE MY GOALS...
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE


YOU'RE MORE OF A BROTHER TO ME THAN THE ONE I GREW UP WITH.

IF YOU THINK OF ME AS YOUR OLDER BROTHER,

I'LL THINK OF YOU AS MY YOUNGER BROTHER, TOO.

S...SIR.
DRIP

SIR! CAN I GIVE YOU A HUG??
WHOA, WHOA! YOU'RE DRUNK!
NO, I'M NOT!
I'M TOTALLY SOBER RIGHT NOW!
HAA... WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU...
WE HEARD THAT WHILE TRAINING YOUR NEW HUNTERS, A HUGE ACCIDENT OCCURRED. IS THAT TRUE?
WAAAH

IS IT TRUE THAT ALL THE HIGH-RANKING HUNTERS DIED AND ONLY THE LOW-RANKING HUNTERS MADE IT BACK ALIVE?
THERE'S WORD GOING AROUND THAT THE SURVIVORS RECEIVED HELP FROM SOMEONE. DO YOU CARE TO COMMENT?
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
THE ASSOCIATION HAS ALREADY FINISHED THEIR INVESTIGATION.
YES, THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT, BUT THE SURVIVORS DID NOT HAVE SOMEONE COME TO THEIR RESCUE.
COME TO THEIR RESCUE?
THEN WHY ARE YOU DENYING US AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SURVIVORS?
I FEEL LIKE THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME.
I WON'T BE TAKING ANY MORE QUESTIONS.

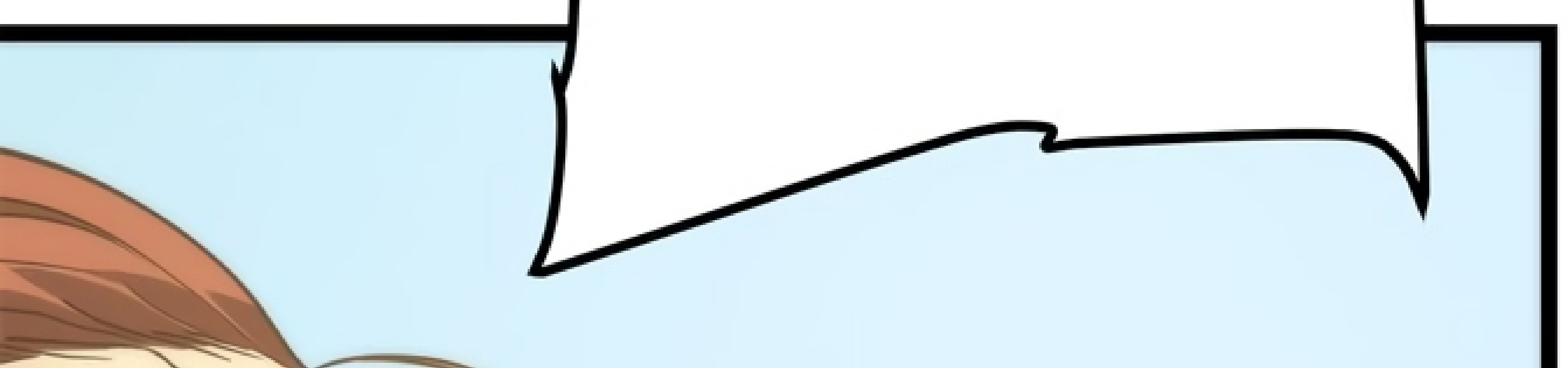
THOSE DAMN REPORTERS...
THEY REALLY KNOW HOW TO SNIFF OUT A STORY.
WHEW

SIR, MR. MIN BYUNG-GU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO?
BYUNG-GU'S ON THE LINE?
PUT HIM THROUGH.

HEY, BAEK. WHY'S YOUR CELLPHONE TURNED OFF?
I'M LAYING LOW UNTIL THE REPORTERS STOP PESTERING ME.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! THE RED GATE INCIDENT!
JUST SAW IT ON THE NEWS. I'M IN JAPAN RIGHT NOW.
WHAT? YOU'RE IN JAPAN?
YOU

LOOKED GOOD ON CAMERA.
DON'T START WITH ME. I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR YOUR JOKES.


DON'T WORRY, MAN. THINGS WILL DIE DOWN SOON ENOUGH.
I'VE ACTUALLY GOT MORE BIG NEWS FOR YOU.
BIG NEWS?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE IN JAPAN.

YEAH, A WEEK AGO, SOMEONE FROM JAPAN SECRETLY CONTACTED THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION.
SO I CAME OVER TO CHECK THINGS OUT, AND IT SEEMS THE SITUATION IS A LOT WORSE THAN I EXPECTED.
PRETTY SOON, THE NEWS WILL REACH KOREA, TOO.
SOMEONE FROM JAPAN CONTACTED THE KOREAN HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION?
FOR WHAT REASON?
THEY WANTED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE JEJU ISLAND RAID.
EXPLAIN TO ME IN MORE DETAIL!

AS YOU KNOW, FOUR YEARS AGO, AN S-RANK GATE OPENED UP IN JEJU.
BUT WHEN ALL THREE SEARCH-AND-DESTROY MISSIONS FAILED, EVEN THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT GAVE UP ON SAVING THE ISLAND.
FOUR YEARS LATER, THE PLACE IS STILL SWARMING WITH ANTS.

YOU AND I NEARLY DIED DURING THAT RAID.
...YEAH. IT'S A NIGHTMARE I WANT TO FORGET.
UNFORTUNATELY, I THINK A MUTATION HAS OCCURRED.
A MUTATION?
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING? THEY'RE STUCK ON THAT ISLAND.
JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE. THEY'RE NOT OUR CONCERN ANYMORE.
WELL...

...THE ANTS MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF MIGRATING TO OTHER COUNTRIES...
...BY FLYING ACROSS THE OCEAN!
THE CORPSE OF AN ANT WITH WINGS WAS FOUND WASHED UP ON THE SHORES OF JAPAN.
SHAAA
SHAAA

THEY'VE BEEN...
...EVOLVING AT AN ALARMING RATE!!

To Be Continued...

Solo Leveling

D&C WEBTOON

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